

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks. Reconsideration and entry of the Amendment is seen to be necessary under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 to provide applicant with an opportunity to respond to and distinguish the newly cited reference to Yamakado '528, and since no significant new issues are presented. Indeed, the issues are simplified since only one base claim, i.e. Claim 78, is now presented.

To briefly summarize, the present invention is directed to an automotive brake test stand of the stationary type, and which comprises a mounting frame 10 that can be secured on or in the floor, or to a wall. A roller assembly 1 is mounted to the frame, so as to permit slight movement in each of at least two degrees of freedom, including the direction 8Y which corresponds to the direction of travel of the vehicle, and the lateral direction 8X as seen in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

The roller assembly comprises two parallel rollers 12, 15 with an endless belt 14 extending about the peripheries of the rollers. A drive 21 in the form of an electric motor is provided for rotating the rollers, and thus the endless belt.

The invention also comprises sensor means for measuring the force or displacement between the roller assembly 1 and the mounting frame 10 in each of the two degrees of freedom.

In use, the motor vehicle drives onto the roller assembly and stops on the endless belt 14, with a vehicle wheel to be tested positioned on the belt at a location between the two rollers. The rollers are then driven by the electric motor so

as to rotate the belt and the wheel. The sensors are provided for measure the force between the roller assembly and the mounting frame which result from the driving and braking movements of the vehicle.

In a preferred embodiment, the roller assembly is mounted so as to be moveable with respect to the mounting frame in three directions, namely, the travel direction 8Y, the lateral direction 8X, and a rotational direction 27 about a vertical axis, note Fig. 2. Also, the roller assembly may be moveable in a vertical direction 8Z. Also, in a preferred embodiment, the rollers incorporate aligned guide grooves 17 for receiving portions 14a of the endless belt and thereby supporting the belt against lateral movement with respect to the rollers during operation.

In the Official Action, base Claim 78 was rejected as being anticipated by Yamakado '528, which discloses a vehicle testing apparatus having a frame 10 which mounts four flat belts 3, 4, 5, 6 which support the wheels of a vehicle 0. The belts are driven and braked by motors 40. Also, arresting members 2 are provided for measuring the force between the base and the vehicle in both the longitudinal direction and the crosswise direction, note column 5, line 30-48.

The present invention as defined in base claim 78 makes clear that the apparatus senses the force or displacement between the roller assembly and the mounting frame, not between the roller assembly and the supported vehicle as taught by Yamakado '528. This distinction is seen to be both novel and unobvious, and provides a unique system for evaluating the operating characteristics of the vehicle.

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In summary, base claim 78 is seen to be allowable for the reasons set forth above, and the dependent claims are similarly allowable. An early and favorable action on the merits is accordingly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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